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News

In Brief

Law

Amendment 2 Unconstitutional

Colorado's Amendment 2 — the measure that would restrict gays and lesbians from seeking protected class status — was declared unconstitutional Tuesday by the state Supreme Court.

The ruling was handed down on national "Coming Out" day, organized by gay and lesbian groups across the country to encourage homosexuals to acknowledge their sexual identities.

In a 6-1 vote, the Supreme Court ruled the amendment unconstitutional because it denies homosexuals equal access to the political process, and noted all "independently identifiable" groups have a right to pursue political goals free from interference by a vote of the people.

Attorney General Gale Norton and Gov. Roy Romer immediately announced the state would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Of course I'm pleased, even though I fully

expected it and fully expect the Supreme Court to make the same ruling," said an obviously jubilant Frank Whitworth, spokesman for the Colorado Springs gay and lesbian organization Ground Zero. "It says you can't take a group of people and say 'I'm going to discriminate against them.'"

In a press conference in Denver, Colorado for Family Values spokesman Will Perkins said he was stunned about the timing of the Supreme Court's timing in its announcement.

"This is an additional slap in the face for the majority of Coloradans and one they won't forget," he said.

Perkins said CFV, which wrote and promoted the amendment, may file a "friend of the court" brief in the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

— Cara DeGette

Your Turn

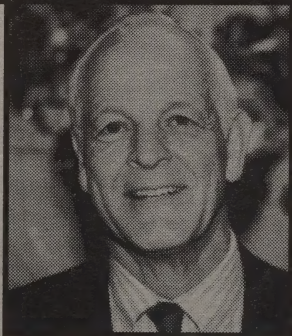
by David S. Nelson

Spin Doctors and Malpractice

This is in response to a recent article in *The Independent* entitled "Spin Doctors and Christian Soldiers."

For the past four years, the Christian Coalition has had a "Road to Victory" seminar with which to educate, exhort and mobilize conservative Christians. This year, however, L.A. Kauffman from California decided to go "undercover" and bubbled childishly about her "cloak and dagger fun" while criticizing the "stealth" of the so-called "religious right."

She practiced "crucial gestures" like "say-



Hopefully, the undercover types that come to deride and chuckle might have found that there was far more evidence of traditional mainstream values than the fanatical, hate-mongering bigotry that is incessantly chanted from the left bank.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Christian Coalition — not just of Christians, whether of a denomination or not, who live or espouse their beliefs. It is time for our beliefs and lifestyles to go "back to basics" — whether of the Bible, the Torah or the Koran. These are the beliefs that are found in the hearts of pro-family Americans.

While newspapers, television and radio report the incessant disregard for human life or virtue, there is an increasing groundswell